



NAVY NEWS



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Forward ... from the Sea

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Navy, nation pay tribute to Admiral Zumwalt

By Martha Thorn, Trident Feature Editor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (NNS) — President Bill Clinton represented the nation and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay L. Johnson represented a half million men and women in bidding farewell to retired Adm. Elmo Russell Zumwalt Jr. earlier this week as the former CNO was laid to rest at the Naval Academy.

“His love of the Navy was as deep as the oceans he sailed,” said President Clinton, who called Zumwalt “the conscience of the Navy.” Clinton said Zumwalt could always be counted on to do the right thing. “Midshipmen at the Academy learn honor, commitment and courage,” Clinton said, “and all his life Adm. Zumwalt exemplified those virtues – in World War II, in Korea and in Vietnam.”

Adm. Johnson spoke of Zumwalt’s unwavering commitment to the Navy and how he helped change the character of the service. In

the 1970s, when Zumwalt became Chief of Naval Operations, the Navy needed a course change, Adm. Johnson said.

“Bud Zumwalt’s boundless enthusiasm, tireless drive, bold courage, love for Sailors, and incredible sense of what needed to be done, brought the ship named Navy back into the channel,” said Adm. Johnson.

The CNO praised Zumwalt for making the Navy a model of equal opportunity. Adm. Johnson noted that Zumwalt had built a bond with his Sailors based on respect for their integrity and their abilities.

“It is perhaps his most lasting contribution, for it not only laid the foundation for today’s volunteer Navy, it committed the Navy’s leadership to improving our Sailor’s quality of life – and quality of service – a

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The U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard fires a 21-gun salute in honor of the former Chief of Naval Operations Adm Elmo Zumwalt Jr. during funeral services held at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Navy photo by Photographer’s Mate 2nd Class Tim Altevoigt.

Integrated power systems, electric drive selected for new class of Navy destroyers (DD 21)

By Office of Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The Department of the Navy (DoN) announced Jan. 6 that the Land Attack Destroyer (DD 21) will be its first class of ships designed and built during the 21st century to be powered by electric drive featuring an integrated power architecture. The first of the DD 21 class of destroyers is expected to be in commission by the end of this

decade.

Underscoring the importance of using integrated power technologies, Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig said that changes in propulsion systems fundamentally change the character and power of naval forces. “This has been shown by the movement from sail to steam or from propeller to jet engines or to nuclear power.

Electric drive will reduce the cost, noise and maintenance demands of how our ships are driven.”

Rear Admiral Mike Mullen, director of the Navy’s Surface Warfare division, explained during the conference how damage control has profound war-fighting implications and how electric drive technology will give that vessel

a significant advantage. “If I take a hit, I will be able to instantly reroute power, reconfigure my ship, in a way that allows me to survive better and handle the damage in a way that allows me to continue to fight.”

“More importantly, electric drive, like other propulsion

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DoD funds historic increase in housing allowance

By Office of Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has announced a major Department of Defense (DoD) initiative to eliminate service members' out-of-pocket costs for off-base housing in the United States. This action will reduce service members' out-of-pocket costs for housing from an average of 18.8 percent of monthly housing costs in 2000 to 15 percent in 2001, with continued reductions each year thereafter, eliminating those out-of-pocket costs entirely by 2005.

To pay for the initiative, the Department has realigned more than \$3 billion into the housing allowance program over the next five years, beginning with \$160 million in the fiscal 2001 budget.

"This historic boost to the housing allowance is another confirmation of the Department's vigorous and sustained commitment to the quality of life of our men and women in uniform. It adds to the momentum generated by the landmark improvements to military pay and retirement enacted by Congress at the request of the Department of Defense and the Administration in the fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act. It augments our ability to attract and retain the quality individuals America's military needs. Good housing is a top priority for the Department and a crucial component of quality of life," Cohen said.

This initiative continues the major improvements in compensation for service members started last year. It

also further strengthens ongoing efforts to eliminate DoD's inadequate on-base family housing by 2010 and inadequate barracks for single members by 2008 through the increased use of privatization as well as

whether single or married, are provided either government housing or a monthly stipend known as Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to procure commercially-owned housing in civilian communities around

statute authorizing the BAH system currently limits monthly BAH payments to no more than 85 percent of the average local cost for housing. Service members currently pay for the shortfall out-of-pocket. The fiscal 2001 budget will include the necessary proposed legislative changes to allow out-of-pocket costs to be decreased below the currently legislated 15 percent.

Out-of-pocket costs reflect the difference between BAH rates and the national median cost of housing. While housing costs and BAH rates vary by location in the U.S., average out-of-pocket costs are the same for the typical member of each military rank at every location in the U.S. For example, a typical married "E-6" (Army or Marine Corps staff sergeant or Navy petty officer 1st class or Air Force technical sergeant) currently has an out-of-pocket cost of \$175 dollars per month, regardless of location, which is 18.8 percent

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***— William S. Cohen,
Secretary of Defense***

traditional military construction (MILCON). The Department has a three-pronged integrated plan to improve housing: increasing housing allowances, increasing reliance upon the private sector through privatization, and maintaining military construction. Housing allowances compensate service members who live off-base, and provide the income stream to support privatization.

Service members,

military bases. The size and attributes of the government quarters provided to the service member depend upon his or her rank, marital status and family size. For those service members living off-base, the amount of BAH paid depends upon the service member's rank, marital status and the local cost for housing. Some 750,000 service members in the U.S. are eligible for BAH.

The congressional

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PRT moratorium extension announced

By Michael McLellan, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — Navy officials recently announced an extension to the moratorium on processing administrative separations for PRT/body fat failures. The moratorium was originally introduced in January 1999 to give Navy health and fitness experts an opportunity to establish a program

consistent with good health and a more arduous fitness standard.

Those efforts continue while officials strive to establish the most effective means of implementing a culture of physical fitness in the Navy. Program managers are working to develop a program that will encourage Sailors to make lifestyle changes beneficial to

both the Navy and individual Sailors. The much-anticipated changes to the PRT program are expected to be announced in the near future.

Additional information is available in NAVADMIN 350/99 and from the PRT program manager, Lt. Cmdr. Neal Carlson, by e-mail at p601e@persnet.navy.mil, or (901) 874-4242/DSN 882.

Naval Hospital Portsmouth gives child second chance through "Bianchi" procedure

By Dan Gay, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth Public Affairs

PORTSMOUTH, Va. (NNS) — A boy born in January 1999 with a severe bowel obstruction is alive today after doctors recently performed the first "Bianchi" procedure at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va.

After the child was born, he was immediately taken to surgery and found to have a condition where the intestines twisted around their blood supply, eventually causing them to die.

Pediatric surgeon Lt. Cmdr. Frazier Frantz, Medical Corps, decided the Bianchi procedure was needed to save the child's life. Although the operation had been performed at many children's hospitals, it had never been done at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.

"[The child] had the worst form of 'midgut volvulus,' in that 95 percent of his small intestine had twisted and died while he was still in utero," said Frantz. "At surgery, the remaining small intestine was attached to the colon in the hope that it would grow with time and dilate so that a bowel lengthening operation could be performed at a later time."

Children with this short length of intestine are described as having "short gut syndrome," a condition characterized by too little intestine to absorb nutrients and maintain normal growth, nutrition and weight gain.

Prior to the development of total parenteral nutrition (TPN) in the late 1960's, infants with this condition had

no hope of survival. TPN is the process where nutrients are infused into the patient via an intravenous catheter.

After surgery, the child remained in the hospital on TPN for the first five months of his life before being discharged home.

Frantz said "While [we] initially wondered if he would survive this condition in the early months of his life, it became clear that he was a fighter and was not going to let this or any other condition slow him down.

"With the loving care of his parents and home nursing, the baby's progress has been truly remarkable. He has grown and developed normally over the past 12 months, all the while patiently waiting for his

first bites of real food."

Frantz performed the intestine-lengthening Bianchi procedure in November. The boy's intestines were found to have grown with age and, after the procedure, measured more than twice their original length.

The youngster tolerated the procedure well and was sent home two weeks following the operation. He is still on TPN, but he is slowly advancing to oral and tube feeding and enjoying every mouthful.

"Since his birth, the child has progressed from a very ill infant fighting for his life to a healthy infant, who is full of life and brings a smile to everyone who crosses his path," said Frantz. "It has been our privilege and pleasure to care for this remarkable child."

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changes, will open immense opportunities for redesigning ship architecture, reducing manpower, improving shipboard life, reducing vulnerability and allocating a great deal more power to warfighting applications," added Rear Adm. Mullen.

Electric drive technology also represents great potential to improve the quality of life for embarked Sailors. It will free up large amounts of internal space, leaving room for significant habitability improvements. "We now have the capability to give staterooms to enlisted Sailors," added Secretary Danzig. "When we have staterooms for Sailors, and reduced numbers also ... we have changed the character of life in the Navy; we have changed the character of the experience, what it means to be

on board a ship."

The key design element of integrated power and electric drive is a single source generator for the requirements of all ship's power needs, including propulsion.

The DoN decision to team DD 21 with electric drive for its propulsion comes after careful consideration among several possibilities studied by the two contractor teams involved.

"This is a long sought and much desired goal," said Secretary Danzig. "DD 21 will truly be the first 'Smart Ship' built from the keel up. Electric drive technology is integral to that. The warfighting and quality of life benefits that can be derived from this will mean that our Sailors can walk aboard a ship that is unlike any other they have known ... this shift in

propulsion reflects our wider efforts to change the very culture of the Navy. With DD

21, Sailors will live, work, and fight aboard a ship that values them like never before."



Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig in a Pentagon briefing discusses Land Attack Destroyer DD 21, the Navy's first class of ships designed and built during the 21st Century to be powered by electric drive. U.S. Navy photo.

Career issues of Perspective, LINK on Internet

By Chief Journalist(SW/AW) Mike Morley, Editor, LINK Magazine

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — Sailors can get the “inside gouge” on mapping a successful Naval career with the upcoming Career Issues of Perspective and LINK magazines.

Perspective focuses on a variety of topics, from various fellowships and service colleges available to officers, to details on the officer selection board process. In addition, there is a detailed

section on microfiche records with information on how to order, screen and correct microfiche records.

The career issue of LINK includes details on the new Navy College Program, which brings several programs under one roof, making it easier for Sailors to complete a college degree while on active duty. Also included are tips on compiling successful packages for enlisted and officer

program selection boards, plus rating-specific information on Selective Reenlistment Bonuses (SRBs), sea-shore rotations and rating mergers.

Both magazines can be accessed through the Bureau of Naval Personnel/Navy Personnel Command website, at <http://www.bupers.navy.mil>. Select the “News Stand” button on the left to view current and archived issues of Perspective and LINK magazines.

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of the \$934 national median housing cost for that rank.

This initiative will increase a typical married E-6's monthly BAH by \$35 in 2001, with additional increases every year thereafter until the E-6's BAH is \$175 higher than if the initiative had not occurred. For a typical married “E-4” (Army specialist, Navy petty officer 3rd class, Air Force senior airman, or Marine Corps corporal), BAH will increase \$28 per month in 2001, with a total increase of \$111 per month by 2005. BAH is not taxed, so every dollar of BAH goes directly into the service member's pocket.

Service members will benefit from improved quality of housing because of

the positive effect that higher BAH will have on housing privatization efforts. In these programs, private developers provide and maintain housing for service members and their family members. The developers' compensation comes from rent paid by service members residing in the housing, using their BAH. Privatization can provide new housing in areas where available housing is limited. Improved BAH increases the income available to private sector developers, facilitating increases in the quantity and quality of privatized housing.

Said Cohen, “The military simply cannot afford to build, own and maintain

enough quality housing to meet our needs. Adequate housing is a core military requirement. But building and maintaining housing is not a core military competency. It makes good sense to incentivize the private sector to provide the housing we need. Having said that, it is also critically important to maintaining funding for government-owned and operated housing.”

By employing a three-pronged approach — improved BAH, privatization programs and MILCON — the Department is fulfilling a key commitment to provide safe, quality housing to our men and women in uniform and their families.

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commitment that continues today,” said Adm. Johnson.

After retiring from the Navy in 1974, Zumwalt remained dedicated to a life of service. He was a founder of the Marrow Foundation and a director of the National Marrow Donor Program. Active in the study of the effects of Agent

Orange, he was also a director of the Vietnam Assistance to the Handicapped Foundation.

His caring for people in need and his help in outlawing chemical weapons led President Clinton to award him the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

“He gave us honest, caring

and steadfast friendship,” Clinton said. “He was one Sailor who never stopped fighting for his country and being its conscience.”

The full text of Adm. Johnson's remarks can be found on the Navy's web site at www.navy.mil by clicking on “what's new”.

On Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's show:

* Former Chief of Naval Operations, Adm Elmo Zumwalt's funeral is held at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

* Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig announces new DD-21 electric drive technology for the Navy of the future.

* Enlisted Marines of VMA 223 aboard USS Bataan keep their Harriers in top shape and ready for action.

* We go to San Diego, where computer technology allows parents to see their kids at play in daycare via the internet.

Compiled on tape #955, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

In naval history: Jan. 17, 1955

USS Nautilus (SSN 571), the first nuclear-powered submarine, is commissioned and sends message “underway on nuclear power”. On August 3, 1958, Nautilus would be the first ship in history to reach the North Pole.

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